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COST
CONSULTANTS OF MOHAWK VALLEY**

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January 17, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I support Microsoft's decision to enter into the antitrust settlement agreement. I do not think the government was justified in bringing this case against Microsoft to begin with. There are a multitude of monopolies in this country. Microsoft has been unjustly singled out. The sooner this case is resolved, the better.

It is apparent to me that the terms of the settlement agreement are quite restrictive to Microsoft. I do not necessarily agree that Microsoft should be subjected to such harsh terms. However, in the interest of resolving the action, I urge the Court to approve the agreement in its present form. Microsoft's competitors should be quite satisfied with Microsoft's agreement to not take action against those it has the legal right to retaliate against. For example, Microsoft agreed to not take action against those who infringe on their intellectual property rights. Instead they will grant licenses on reasonable and non-discriminatory terms. They have also agreed to not retaliate against computer manufacturers who install non-Microsoft software on their computers. They have also agreed to the creation of a watchdog committee to monitor their compliance with the agreement. With these provisions, the agreement will certainly achieve the goal of ensuring that Microsoft will not violate antitrust laws.

I appreciate your taking the time to review my comments on this matter.

Sincerely,

Austin Bartholomew